

11/8/2019

Dear CXYP Participants, Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a great summer!

In our first newsletter of the 2019/20 season, you will find dates for the first term as well as information on session payments, news about our trip to the National Festival of Youth Theatre and this year's Three Plays in Three Days event and a look back at last term.

## Announcements

### National Festival of Youth Theatre 2019



National Festival of Youth Theatre 2019

At the beginning of July we took some of the young people from the senior class to the National Festival of Youth Theatre. This is a Bi annual event organized by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS) which is the national development organisation and umbrella body for Scotland's youth theatre artists, audiences and leaders. This year it was held in Ayr at the Ayr Gaiety. This was a packed weekend of workshops, performances and CAMPING. Workshops our young people took part in included singing, acrobalance, Shakespeare and playwriting. Throughout the weekend they were also treated to performances by Firefly Arts, The Gaiety and RCS Young Company, Falkirk Youth Theatre, Airdrie Youth Theatre, Lab Station, Capall

Dorcha, Peek Youth Theatre and Solar Bear (a deaf youth theatre) as well as the Diocesan School for Girls from New Zealand.

Out with the workshops and performances our young people also won the quiz, sang in the open mic and danced in the ceilidh. This was an incredibly valuable experience for our young people as they were able to see and meet other youth theatres from around Scotland and beyond, learn new skills and make new friends. They all had a great time and stayed relatively dry as well!

### Three Plays in Three Days 2019



Participants from Three Plays in Three Days 2019

Our annual workshop – “Three Plays in Three Days” took place again at the start of August. Participants were split into three production groups and given the challenge of devising and staging three original one-act plays in just under 72 (elapsed) hours.

The theme for these plays was “Time”. From day one, ideas were flowing as they started from scratch to build their play. Day two they started to build their set and source their props and costume. Day three they added sounds and lights.

The results of their hard work were performed to an enthusiastic audience on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Plays included a time travelling clock (“Pollution Problem”), a Cowboy/Western bar (“Rattlesnake Creek”) and the end of the world (“24 Hours”). An added challenge this year was that they had to incorporate some sort of movement or choreography to their plays. Alex Saunders worked with them to add this.

## Looking Back: Term Four: Performance Term 2019



Last term rounded off with some end of term performances from all our classes. Our primary classes presented a double bill of devised plays. The P1-4's performed "A Journey through Crazy Worlds" in which a group of explorers set out on a Journey through Crazy Worlds to find pieces of a magical box. The P5-7's performed "Truce" a play about the balance of Good and Evil, the part they both play in our everyday lives and how these forces are kept in check. Overseen by two groups of people - The "Society of Sinisterly Evil" the "Guild for the Graciously Good!" Both plays were created by the young people from scratch using their own ideas and imagination. Our S1 and S2-6 class joined forces to present a night of one act plays. The S1 Class performed "Sparkleshark" by Philip Ridley which was about Jake, a fourteen-year-old who takes refuge on the roof of a tower block in order to write stories. The S2-6's presented the well-known play "Our Day Out" by Willy Russell. This is a comedy about an inner-city school in Liverpool who go on a trip to Conwy Castle in Wales. All performances were well received. A massive well done to all involved and thanks again for everyone's hard work.

Last term some of our senior class were treated to a Backstage Theatre Tour of the Edinburgh Festival Theatre. It was great for them to be able to see behind the scenes of a theatre on this scale, learn about its history and its inner workings. Some of our young people from the primary classes also went to see "Horrible Histories - Awful Egyptians" at the Kings Theatre in Edinburgh.

The term ended with an Oscars Night for our Primary and S1 Classes and a well-deserved drama games night for the S2-6's.



## Looking ahead: Term One

The 1st term of the season will begin on Tuesday 20th August and will run for 8 weeks until Tuesday 8th October.

P1 - 4 will run for one hour: 3:15pm - 4:15pm

P5 - 7 will run for one and a half hours: 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

S1 will run for one and a half hours: 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

Seniors (S2 - S6) will run for two hours: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

For full details on term subscriptions, please read the attached letter from Mike Chad, Chair of the CXYP Management Team, at the bottom of this newsletter. Term dates for the 2019/20 are as follows:

Term 1: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October (8 Weeks) - £30 (2 Siblings-£58)

Term 2: Tuesday 29<sup>h</sup> October - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (8 Weeks) - £30 (2 Siblings-£58)

Term 3/1: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February (5 Weeks) - £20 (2 Siblings- £36)

Term 3/2: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March (7 Weeks) - £30 (2 Siblings-£58)

Term 4: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (9 Weeks) - £30 (2 Siblings-£58)

We ask that all subscriptions for Term 1 are paid no later than Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Please feel free to use:

Electronic transfer to Biggar Corn Exchange (account 00613195, sort code 83-16-11) with "CXYP" and your initials in the "reference" box.

Cheque (cheques payable to "Biggar Corn Exchange") which can either be brought to the next CXYP session or left in an envelope addressed to me at the Corn Exchange.

## Staffing

This season, Jonathan White will be back leading the P1-4, 5-7 and S1 classes. Jonathan is a Freelance Community Drama and Arts Practitioner. He has trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. He has worked, facilitating drama sessions at North Ayrshire Council, Ecole Enterprise, Cumbernauld Youth Theatre, Dramamusa, Scottish Youth Theatre, Dundee Rep Theatre, Beacon Youth Theatre and P.I.E. Arts in Ayrshire.

David Ross is back leading the S2-6 class. David is a High School Drama teacher at Dunbar Grammar School. He is also currently a Drama Tutor for the Brunton Youth Theatre and East Lothian Youth Theatre. He has previously freelanced with Mix Up Theatre and tutored the East Lothian Arts Drama Group for adults with additional support needs (ASN).

Alex Saunders is back also working with the P1-4 and 5-7 classes. Alex is a Community Dance Artist. She has her own company "Live for Dance" and currently works at Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre. She has also taught at Eden Court Theatre and Hampshire Dance.

We also have two new workshop assistants this season: Adam Lacey and Morven Dougall. The Management Team would also like to extend a warm welcome to them. They both recently directed their own play for Three Plays and will now assist Jonathan and Alex with both primary groups.

The management team would also like to thank our previous workshop assistants Katy Bisson and Angus Allison for all their help and hard work over the years. We wish them all the best for the future.

## Moving on up...

A warm welcome to our new P5 and S1 pupils joining us in our P5-7 and S1 drama groups this year. We look forward to welcoming you into your new drama group!

## Parent Volunteers

In recent years, CXYP has benefitted greatly from the kindness and generosity of our parent volunteers. Without their help and support, we would not be able to function on a week-by-week basis. As we approach the 2019/20 season, we would like to appeal for new volunteers. For some time now, CXYP has worked with a core group of parents who have helped us year in, year out. While we are extremely grateful for their enduring support, we are eager to expand our list of helpers to ensure time commitment is spread more evenly across the season. If you can spare an hour or two on a Tuesday afternoon or evening, then please get in touch. Alternatively, you can tick the volunteering box on your child's consent form.

## Drama Session Consent Forms

It's vital we keep the emergency contact and medical information in our consent forms up to date. We would kindly ask that all parents and carers arrive on the first week back to fill out a new form for their child. Once completed, the form will suffice for the entire 2019/20 season. As always, if your child's circumstances change during the course of the season, please inform us in writing at the earliest possible time.

We have been updating our website with pictures, information about our forthcoming term, policies and procedures and past newsletters. Feel free to have a look at <http://www.biggarcornexchange.org.uk/cex-young-performers/>. We also have a Facebook group which gets updated with news and pictures as well. Just search for Corn Exchange Young Performers or use this link- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1982694251986855/>

We have another very exciting and packed season ahead but you need to be "in it to win it" as the saying goes! We look forward to welcoming lots of old and new faces on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.

If you have any questions about the forthcoming term, please do get in touch.

Best Wishes,

*Jonathan White*

Programme Co-ordinator and Group Leader  
P1-3, P5-7 & S1 Drama Groups

On behalf of:

**David Ross**

Programme Co-ordinator and Group Leader  
S2-6 Drama Group

**Alex Saunders**

Community Dance Artist

**Adam Lacey & Morven Dougall** Drama Workshop Assistants

Corn Exchange Young Performers (CXYP)

[biggar.cxyp@gmail.com](mailto:biggar.cxyp@gmail.com)

## CXYP administration

Welcome to the new CXYP season. This note is to advise you of some changes we are making, to simplify our administration processes.

Last year, we switched from weekly payments to a subscription for each term. This generally worked well, and we will continue this approach. This time, we have tried to make it even simpler, using mainly 8-week terms and the same payment each term.

The payment is equivalent to less than £4/week.

### Benefits

- Simplification of the process
- More drama, less bureaucracy
- No extra charge for any additional rehearsals (in the lead-up to a show)
- Avoids weekly trips to the bank

### Term Payments

	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Total weeks</b>	<b>Subs</b>	<b>Subs (2 siblings)</b>
Term 1	20-08-19	08-10-19	8	£30	£58
Term 2	29-10-19	18-12-18	8	£30	£58
Term 3/1	07-01-20	04-02-19 (11 Feb = holiday)	5	£20	£36
Term 3/2	18-02-20	31-03-20	7	£30	£58
Term 4	21-04-20	23-06-20 (7 June = holiday)	9	£30	£58

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- Cheque (cheques payable to "**Biggar Corn Exchange**") which can either be brought to the next CXYP session or left in an envelope addressed to me at the Corn Exchange.

If you need to discuss the payments, please have a confidential word with one of the CXYP Management Team. We don't want to discourage **any** young people from involvement in CXYP, and we be flexible.

Mike Chad

*Chair, CXYP Management Team*